

REMARKS

An administrative item was missing in the Notice of Allowability. Specifically, there is no acknowledgment of the priority claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 for this application. Applicants respectfully request that the examiner clarify this point in the next office action.

A Notice of Allowance for this application was issued on July 28, 2003. This Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being filed so that the attached Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) can be considered. The IDS discloses published patent application US 2003/0024547 A1 (the '547 publication). Claim 1 has also been amended to further distinguish claim 1 over Fig. 6(I) of the '547 publication. Specifically, in claim 1, the acoustic energy generating means is positioned over at least part of the face of the resonator. This is shown in Fig. 8 of the present application where the crystal 34 extends along the length "s". In contrast, Fig. 3 of the '547 publication shows that the piezoelectric transducer 140 is positioned adjacent to the cylindrical section 104d. Therefore, the transducer 140 is not positioned over the channel 218 or the lower edge 229 shown in Figs. 5(u) or 6(f) of the '547 publication.

In view of these amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-3, 7 and 9-18 are in condition for allowance. If a telephone conference with applicants' attorney would help answer any further questions, please contact the attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Donald J. Pagel
Reg. No. 32,832

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Law Office of Donald J. Pagel
586 N. First Street, Suite 207
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 995-0881